



File Code: 1950

Date: March 14, 2016

Subject: Saddle Lakes ROD

Dear Planning Participant:

I am pleased to announce that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Saddle Lakes Project on the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest has been signed. The ROD is available for review at the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords District Office, and online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=38990>. Hardcopies and CDs of the document are available upon request.

This decision authorizes a right-of-way (ROW), about 300 feet wide by about 1 mile, to the State of Alaska to construct, operate and maintain a single lane public road connecting the Ketchikan and Shelter Cove road systems. Additionally, the partial barrier to fish passage on Salt Creek will be modified to improve access for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Both of these activities were included in all action alternatives considered in the FEIS. As directed by the Reviewing Officer in response to the objections received related to the draft Record of Decision (ROD), this decision defers all timber harvest, road construction associated with the timber harvest, and the two Forest Plan amendments discussed in the draft ROD.

The FEIS and draft ROD were available for public review prior to this final decision, pursuant to the Predecisional Administrative Review Processes. Two objections were received during the 45-day objection filing period under 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B, and two objections were received during the 60 day objection filing period under 36 CFR 219 subpart B. The Reviewing Officer has reviewed the draft decision, in accordance with 36 CFR 218.3(a) and 219.56(g) and provided me with instructions. I have complied with the instructions from the Reviewing Officer prior to signing the ROD. Project implementation may commence immediately after the decision is signed.

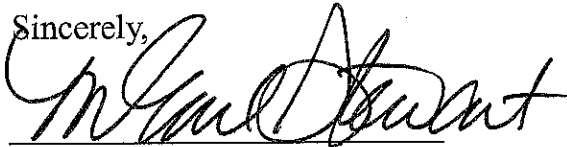
Copies of this letter have been mailed to those people who have expressed interest in the project through scoping, comments, consultation, or requested



to be on the mailing list. For additional information, please contact Jeff DeFreest, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords District Ranger, at (907)-225-2148.

As the Forest Supervisor, I am responsible for this decision. Your interest in the Saddle Lakes Project and management of the Tongass National Forest is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Earl Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. EARL STEWART
Forest Supervisor